

Remarks

Claims 1-53 were pending in the application. By this paper, claims 19-53 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as being drawn to non-elected subject matter. However, Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of claims 19-53 in one or more divisional or continuation applications. Claims 1-18 stand rejected. By this paper, claims 1 and 10 have been amended. For the reasons set forth below, Applicant submits that each of the pending claims is patentably distinct from the cited prior art and in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the claims is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 4-7, 10-11, and 13-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by International Patent Application Publication WO 00/01149 by Wachtfogel et al. ("Wachtfogel"). However, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because Wachtfogel fails to identically teach every element of the pending claims. See M.P.E.P. § 2131 (stating that in order to anticipate a claim, a prior art reference must identically teach every element of the claim).

Wachtfogel teaches a digital television recording apparatus that enables manipulation of recorded information. See, page 4, lines 1-3. Referring to Fig. 1A of Wachtfogel, television programs are received, decoded and provided either directly to a television 50 or to a high capacity memory 55. Page 13, lines 9-15. Some television programs may also be stored in an external removable memory 65. Page 14, lines 5-6. Wachtfogel also teaches compressing data provided to any one of the

memories 55 and 65, and decompressing data retrieved from any one of the memories 55 and 65. See, page 15, lines 17-21. In operation, television programs received from a headend 15 are digitally recorded "in one of the memories 55 and 56." Page 16, lines 20-22 (emphasis added).

Whether stored in one or both of the memories 55 and 56, Applicant respectfully submits that Wachtfogel does not teach or suggest storing uncompressed data in an interim multimedia buffer and then compressing the data that has been stored in the interim multimedia buffer for storage in a long term multimedia buffer.

Without changing the scope of the claims, claims 1 and 10 have been amended herein to clarify this distinction. However, the original language, by using the definite article "said" before "uncompressed multimedia content," made it clear that the claim was referring to the uncompressed multimedia content that had been "store[d] ... in an interim multimedia buffer on said mass storage device" in the previous element. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that adding this redundant language does not change the scope of the claims and should not serve as a basis for a new grounds for rejection.

According to page 2 of the Office Action, Wachtfogel teaches a freeze function that uses the memory 55 as a circular buffer to store uncompressed content when a user freezes the program and triggers storage and recording. However, Applicant respectfully disagrees that Wachtfogel teaches storing uncompressed data. For example, the portion of Wachtfogel cited in the Office Action (page 19 of Wachtfogel) merely states that "when the user freezes the program, ... the program is recorded, for

example in the memory 55.... Preferably, the apparatus 10 uses a portion of the memory 55 as a circular buffer and resumes playing the program from the buffer from the point at which the program was frozen." Page 19, lines 2-8. Wachtfogel is silent as to storing uncompressed data followed by compressing the stored, uncompressed data as a background task.

Specifically, Wachtfogel does not teach or suggest "compression logic configured to store uncompressed multimedia content in an interim multimedia buffer on said mass storage device, compress said uncompressed multimedia content stored in said interim multimedia buffer as a background task..., and store said compressed multimedia content in long term multimedia buffer on said mass storage device," as recited, among other things, in amended claim 1. (Emphasis added).

Also, Wachtfogel does not teach or suggest "storing multimedia content in an interim multimedia buffer on a mass storage device before compressing said multimedia content; compressing said multimedia content stored in said interim multimedia buffer as a background task...; and storing said compressed multimedia content in long term multimedia buffer on said mass storage device," as recited, among other things, in amended claim 10. (Emphasis added). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1 and 10 be withdrawn.

Further, Applicant submits that claims 2-9 and 11-18 are each allowable, under both 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103, as respectively depending, either directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 10.

In view of the foregoing, all pending claims represent patentable subject matter. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If any issues remain, the

Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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